

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-02 ISO-00 /004 R

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APPROVED BY: D/H/ORM: LAWIESNER

D/H/ORM: CCPAPPAS

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P 191912Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144190

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANTIAGO 3887 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LIMA 13 JUN 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3887

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CI

SUBJ: PAROLE OF CHILEAN REFUGEES AND DETAINEES

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

REF: STATE 137514

1. OUR PEOPLE ARE STUDYING STATE 137514, RECEIVED LAST EVENING, AND WE WILL BE REPLYING WITH A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS AND REQUESTS WHICH WE HOPE WILL HELP TO SET UP AN EFFECTIVE OPERATION HERE AND IN LIMA. THERE WILL BE SOME DIFFICULTIES, AND WE HAVE LITTLE BASIS ON WHICH TO ESTIMATE HOW ACTIVE A PROGRAM THIS WILL TURN OUT TO BE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT WITH HELP WE ARE REQUESTING FROM DEPARTMENT WE CAN HANDLE MATTER IN SATISFACTORY WAY. WE WILL NEED ADDITIONAL CONSULAR PERSONNEL ON TDY.

2. AT THE MOMENT, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS
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ASPECT OF THE PROGRAM. THE STORY HAS EVIDENTLY BROKEN IN THE

UNITED STATES, AND WORD OF IT HAS FILTERED BACK HERE. WE ARE SEEKING DETAILS. WHATEVER THE IMPACT IN THE US, THE INITIAL STAGE OF OUR ACTIVITY HERE CAN HARDLY BE KEPT IN LOW KEY, AS WE ALL WOULD PREFER. I WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION TO CONSULT WITH FONMIN, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE NOT LATER THAN BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, TO APPRISE THEM OF WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHY. I WILL OF COURSE STRESS PURELY HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF OUR ACTIVITIES AND UTILITY OF FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON PART OF GOC, SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH THEY HAVE EXHIBITED IN CASE OF OTHER RECEIVING COUNTRIES. I DO NOT ANTICIPATE MAJOR DIFFICULTY ON THIS SCORE.

3. WE ARE ALSO PREPARING LETTERS FROM ME TO ICEM, ICRC, AND LOCAL REFUGEE COMMITTEE INFORMING THEM OF NEW PROGRAM; WE WILL NOT SEND THESE UNTIL USG PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN FINALIZED. IN ADDITION, WE PLAN AT THAT TIME TO ISSUE A PRESS STATEMENT AND MADE AVAILABLE A HANDOUT FOR INQUIRERS. PURPOSE OF BOTH WOULD BE TO DISCOURAGE WALK-IN CHILEANS WHO, HEARING OF OUR PROGRAM, WILL FOR POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC REASONS WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT TO EMIGRATE TO THE US.

4. IF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES MATTER AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING, OR IF A DEPARTMENT STATEMENT IS ISSUED, PLEASE HAVE IT SENT TO US BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM, SO THAT WE CAN REPLAY IT HERE.

POPPER

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PAROLE, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, REFUGEE RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE144190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/H/ORM: ELEDDBETTER: CML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750214-0566
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750633/aaaabeiu.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 137514
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAROLE OF CHILEAN REFUGEES AND DETAINEES FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS
TAGS: SREF, CI
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006